

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is but one example out of many of the dangers of media consolidation. It is a clear case of a corporation making broadcasting decisions based on what's good for itself – the re-election of George W. Bush – rather than on what promotes the good of the republic and its citizens.

Broadcast corporations use the public airwaves free of charge, and are thus obligated by ethics and by law to serve the public interest. But by their nature, corporations focus on profit above all – it's a system that works pretty well in many respects, but it's not what's best for our democracy. Corporations will never provide the substantive, locally relevant, and unbiased news that is required for a thriving democracy as long as it's easier and more profitable to focus on infotainment, unrestrained growth, and gaming the system.

That's why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.